



Community Energy Conservation Challenge Expanded

Communities, Schools, Businesses, Nonprofits Can Get Grants For Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy or Vehicle Retrofit Projects.

For Immediate Release

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(Indianapolis) – Lt. Governor Becky Skillman has launched an expanded Community Conservation Challenge (CCC), which could provide several hundred thousand dollars for community-wide energy efficiency, renewable energy or alternative fuel vehicle retrofit projects. An anticipated \$1.2 million of federal funding is available to local units of government, school corporations, businesses, and nonprofit agencies in Indiana.

“The Community Conservation Challenge is seeking projects that involve unique partnerships or multiple community organizations,” said Lt. Governor Becky Skillman. “This is an opportunity to be innovative and educational while increasing our energy efficiency and reducing our dependence on foreign energy sources.”

The Challenge is a competitive grant program that does not require a local match, but successful applicants will leverage local funds to complete their projects. The grants could range from \$25,000 to several hundred thousand per project using the following eligible technologies:

- Alternative fuel vehicle fleets
- Combined heat and power
- Biomass
- Energy efficiency
- Geothermal
- Solar
- Traffic signal retrofits
- Waste management and recycling
- Water systems
- Hydropower
- Wind energy

“This program is designed to bring attention to an Indiana community, business or organization’s best efforts,” said Brandon Seitz, Director of OED. “The project must be located in Indiana, and must be a visible, tangible project.”

CCC projects must also demonstrate measurable improvements in energy efficiency or renewable energy, result in a reduction in energy demand, fuel consumption or petroleum use, or involve the implementation of an energy recycling process.

In 2010 the CCC program focused on energy efficiency only. Four grants totaling \$400,000 were awarded to Habitat for Humanity of Greater Evansville, Central Indiana Community Foundation, Second Harvest Food Bank, and the Indiana Interchurch Center.

The CCC grant program will use federal funds administered by the Indiana Office of Energy Development. Applications for the 2011 CCC grant program are being accepted online between October 11, 2011 and November 10, 2011. Program Guidelines are also available online at www.energy.IN.gov.

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The Office of Energy Development (OED) was created in December 2005 as an extension of the Indiana energy office. Under the leadership of Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, OED is responsible for the state's energy policy. For more information visit www.energy.in.gov, or follow OED on twitter, IndianaEnergy.

For updates from the Lt. Governor and the agencies she oversees, please sign up at www.in.gov/lg/